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Amend claim 4 as follows:

--4. (Amended) A method for extracting feature quantities of a binary image according to claim 1, further comprising a step of performing scanning one line of the image data to provide N pixels (N being an integer greater than or equal to 1) that follows an image area having the same area number that has just terminated as semi-image areas of an image area that is adjacent from right above when the image area having a prescribed area number terminated at the pixel that is located right above on immediately preceding line.--

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Amend claim 5 as follows:

--5. (Amended) A method for extracting feature quantities of a binary image according claim 3, further comprising a step of scanning the line buffer in a reverse direction and modifying the different area numbers to the common area number when consecutive pixels belong to respective image areas and semi-image areas but have different area numbers after the scanning of the one line has completed.--

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Add the following new claims:

A1 complete
A2
--6. (New) A method for extracting feature quantities of a binary image according to claim 2, further comprising a step of performing scanning one line of the image data to provide N pixels (N being an integer greater

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than or equal to 1) that follows an image area having a prescribed area number that has just terminated as semi-image areas of an adjacent image area.

--7. (New) A method for extracting feature quantities of a binary image according to claim 2, further comprising a step of performing scanning one line of the image data to provide N pixels (N being an integer greater than or equal to 1) that follows an image area having the same area number that has just terminated as semi-image areas of an image area that is adjacent from right above when the image area having a prescribed area number terminated at the pixel that is located right above on immediately preceding line.

--8. (New) A method for extracting feature quantities of a binary image according claim 4, further comprising a step of scanning the line buffer in a reverse direction and modifying the different area numbers to the common area number when consecutive pixels belong to respective image areas and semi-image areas but have different area numbers after the scanning of the one line has completed.--

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R E M A R K S

The above changes in the claims merely place this national stage application in the same condition as it was